

DELANEY GETS CUP —AND A SOAKING

SLOUGH TOWN 0, WYCOME WANDERERS 1

FORMER Slough centre-half John Delaney sunk his old club by laying on the only goal of a hard-fought Berks and Bucks Senior Cup Final on a mud-covered Chesham pitch on Monday.

Delaney, who has been on the losing side in all his previous five County finals, fully deserved a winners' medal at last and it was unfortunate that an unsporting Slough supporter should throw a bucket of water over him at the end.

While it was sixth time lucky for Delaney, it was a case of third time lucky for

Wycombe as they had lost to Slough in the previous two County Cup finals. It is worth recalling that when the teams last met at Chesham, Wycombe took the cup in 1968 by defeating Slough 3-2 in extra-time.

£760 RECEIPTS

Slough, having been beaten in the Amateur Cup Final

by a goal from another of their former players, Roger Connell, must feel the season has turned sour on them. But they can take consolation from a 3,350 attendance which will give them and Wycombe the major part of the £760 receipts.

Although Slough were feel-

**By Tony
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ing the effects of playing their fifth game in nine days, they could have no excuses for losing. Wycombe, Isthmian League champions for the last two seasons but unable to finish higher than third this time, always looked more dangerous than the Rebels in the second-half.

Alf D'Arcy, recalled to the Slough back four after injury, and his fellow centre-back Keith Mead were magnificent.

But Wycombe striker Keith Searle was quick to break away from Mead in tight situations and even when beaten Searle often prevented Mead getting the ball away cleanly.

Reardon, able to switch back to mid-field in place of the injured Gaine, marked Wycombe danger-man Pritchard out of the game in the first-half, but "lost" Pritchard several times after the break.

Meanwhile the industrious Day was finding it hard to escape the attentions of Williams. Up front O'Sullivan often switched with Chatterton, but after three early efforts they were shut out by Delaney and Bullock.

Anthony, playing against his old club, once again persisted in dribbling too much and was held by ex-Slough full-back Gambin.

Yet The Rebels, playing in a 'new style' set of shirts, with blue stripes going down under the arms, produced the smartest build-ups early on.

O'Sullivan twice came close to scoring, just mis-timing his header when D'Arcy sent a free-kick to him and then seizing on a bad back pass by Bullock, only to fire inches wide of an open goal.

The heavy rain had turned the pitch into a sea of mud and both sides were finding it difficult to keep their footing as the slippery ball skidded away from them.

But Slough keeper Wolstenholme did well to hold two hard shots from Pritchard. He then thwarted Delaney, whose claim that the ball was already over the line was turned down.



Wycombe skipper John Delaney holds on to the B and Bucks Senior Cup as he chats with Slough man Tommy Lawrence.

TANGLE

The second-half was only six minutes old when Wycombe took the lead. Slough's defence got into a real tangle as Delaney headed back Bullock's free-kick and Searle brushed past D'Arcy to thump the ball home from close range, with Wolstenholme going in too late.

Wolstenholme had to race out to save at Pritchard's feet before Slough recovered. Then Chatterton cut in from the right, feinted to pass to Day, but instead produced a powerful drive which keeper Maskell managed to pull down.

Only now did an element of rough play creep in, but referee P. Sawyer stamped it out immediately by booking Rob Williams in the 65th minute for body checking Reardon.

With 20 minutes to go, Slough sent on substitute Churchill for Jamieson, and moved Reid to right-back. This gave Slough four men up front and when Anthony popped up on the left to get over a cross to the near post Chatterton headed narrowly wide.

CHARGED DOWN

Eleven minutes from time Chatterton attempted one of his free-kick thunderbolts but it was charged down by a defender who was never five yards off the ball—let alone ten!

As the pressure built up Churchill had a back header cleared off the line by Birdseye. But this was as near as Slough got and Wycombe finished the stronger side.

Slough: Wolstenholme; Jamieson, Mead, D'Arcy, Entom; Reid, Day, Reardon; O'Sullivan, Chatterton, Anthony. Subs: Churchill (for Jamieson).

Wycombe: Maskell; Gambin, Bullock, Delaney, Birdseye; Pritchard, Williams, Hutchinson; Swain, Searle, Horseman. Sub: Gane.

Martin sits it out

MARTIN SWADLING, the 17-year-old mid-field player who was left out of the Slough side for both the Amateur Cup Final and the Berks and Bucks Cup Final, said: "It was obviously a great disappointment—I was hoping to play."

Slough manager Tommy Lawrence commented: "The rules of the Berks and Bucks Cup allow ex-professionals like our coach Laurie Churchill to play. I decided to make Laurie substitute instead of Martin or Steve Crosby, because he was the more likely to get a goal."

"I don't feel sorry for Martin—he has been lucky to gain so much valuable experience this season."

Of the result, Mr. Lawrence said: "They got a lucky break, and we didn't. Delaney didn't head the ball cleanly but Searle managed to get it in. We've had too many games lately and looked jaded in the second-half."

John Delaney remarked: "Continually getting a runners-up medal has niggled me, but now I have a winners' medal at last—it is something of an anti-climax. Although one Slough fan threw a bucket of water over me, I think most people feel I deserved to finish on the winning side. Whoever did it shouldn't have been allowed out of his pram."

Wycombe manager Brian Lee described the goal by saying: "We often use Delaney to knock the ball across goal from the far post. Searle hesitated because he didn't think Delaney's header would carry and it was just as well the ball stuck in the mud. I think we were the best team and felt Slough were a bit disjointed."

Slough goalkeeper Ian Wolstenholme explained: "I thought the ball would skid through on the mud and I also hesitated. But it stuck in the mud and I was caught out."